The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

WHOLE NO. 915. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1928. VOL. 18, NO. 32.

No one reaches a high position without daring.—Syrus.

BUSINESS MEN NOW FEEL INJUNCTION STING

A Michigan judge has enjoined the Standard Oil Company from retailing gasoline for less than 20.8 cents a gallon.

Six retail dealers made the complaint. They buy at wholesale prices from the company, which is charged with attempting to ruin their business.

This injunction may shock business men who are silent when strikers are enjoined on the ground that they "ruin business."

If the injunction is right when workers are involved, it is right in the Michigan case, which is an indication how far the irresponsible, unchecked equity judge will go.

If a man or a group can be enjoined from doing a lawful act because some one claims his business will be harmed, this marks the end of government by law.

Under this system the government protects business while it ignores human rights and constitutional guarantees. Our theory of government is set aside by the new concept that a business man is immune from risks that were formerly considered inherent in that business.

The equity system originally protected property when the plaintiff had no remedy at law. This property was tangible. Private rights were a matter for law courts.

Equity judges now include patronage and good will—elements inherent in each individual—as "property." This places intangible things under the jurisdiction of equity and the labor injunction naturally follows.

Now an employer can enforce any work condition he sees fit, and if workers protest he calls on the equity power to protect his "property"—the indefinable things known as patronage and good will.

Due to the historic fact that power begets power, the injunction judge orders a wholesale oil company not to retail gasoline below a certain price. In his zeal to protect "property," the injunction judge ignores the right of the defendant company, just as he ignores workers' fundamental rights if the income of a business man is lessened when they refuse to labor.

Unless the American people awaken to the injunction menace they will stealthily be swept into one-man government.

This means passing of government by law, abolition of law courts and legislatures and the substitution of a few equity judges who have assumed the power to issue one sweeping and undefined edict, "Thou shalt not commit what we believe is evil."

Under this system no citizen knows his rights. He is at the mercy of one man whose only guide is his conscience and his moods.

The Michigan injunction should serve as a warning to business men that they are not immune from the equity process. Even the six retailers who secured the court order may be the next victims.

CHANCES FOR WORK LESSENS; MACHINE IS OUSTING HUMANS

Washington, Oct. 20.—For the last two and a half years wages of manufacturing workers who have had steady employment has been practically stationary, according to the Weekly News Bulletin of the National Catholic Welfare Conference. This estimate is based on employment and pay roll figures collected by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"Wages for these steadily employed, between 1924 and 1926, has increased but 4½ cents on the dollar," says the Bulletin.

"Since 1926 these wages remained about the same. But all this time many were out of work and the wage increase meant nothing to them.

"Between 1923 and 1926 eight out of every hundred lost their jobs in manufacturing industries. Those still getting work received from 50 cents to about $1.50 a week more than three years before, while they were working. Since then another five or six have lost out. The wages of those who still had work have stayed the same.

"Those who were steadily employed all this time have been better off by a little less than 4½ cents on the dollar every week. But the drop in jobs has meant a great many ups and downs in a single worker's chance to get work. When there are five or six fewer jobs per hundred, many more than five or six hundred lose a day's work. They can lose the 4½ cents on the dollar in the weekly pay check in two or three hours or a week's work in the shift of idleness."

CAN'T HIDE IMMENSE PROFITS

Corporation funds continue to flood Wall Street as call money loans.

These loans are in excess of $2,000,000,000. They are profits that are lying idle in the strong boxes of corporations and represent exploitation of low-wage workers employed in company "union" and "yellow dog" plants.

The $2,000,000,000 is in excess of the usual demands of business and the corporations loan this money on call demand at high rates of interest to Wall Street gamblers who are "shooting the stock market sky high."

"Bootlegging" of loans is a new feature in the financial world and is the best evidence of the unexampled prosperity of the few. The loans are beyond government control and this irresponsible power alarms conservative bankers who fear the result if immense funds are hastily withdrawn from the market.

No one can check the loans as the corporations are not regulated as the Federal Reserve system regulates banks.

The $2,000,000,000 of excess profits is proof for the need for wage standards yet undreamed of.

LIBERTY WITH A STRING

Mussolini assures newspaper editors of his country that the Italian press is the freest in the world.

No one controls them, save where the ideals of Fascism are questioned. With that exception, anything one can criticise at will.

Censorship only applies where the press opposes Mussolini's exaltation of the state and denial of every fundamental right.

"For instance," said Mussolini, "any one can say that as a player of a violin I am a very mediocre amateur."

This guarantee of liberty in non-essentials is a favorite trick in the United States.

Workers are often trapped by the assurance that their unions should be upheld—as long as they confine their activities to paying sick and death benefits.

But let one of these unions attempt to function; let them challenge autocracy in industry and the American Mussolinis and the Italian dictators will act.

It is not liberty to say a man may do a thing no one objects to. Constitutions are not written for the majority. They are intended to protect the minority.

PEOPLE ARE TRICKED BY DISHONEST PRESS

Fairhope, Ala., Oct. 20.—"With few exceptions the press of this state rally to the support of the Alabama Power Company, state representative of the country-wide power trust," says Editor Gaston of the Fairhope Courier in a leading editorial.

"These newspapers," says Mr. Gaston, "find nothing to condemn in the company secretly carrying on its pay roll, at a salary higher than paid him by the state, the Director of Extension of the State University who, from the vantage point of his university position, conducts a state-wide campaign of which his secret employer is the chief beneficiary; in its paying $200 a month to an editor for circulation of his editorial service favorable to the company; in the disclosures, by many representatives of the power trust, of its policy of attempting to influence newspapers by putting them under obligations.

"The trouble with the press and others who thus help to build up a utility Frankenstein is that they fail to separate in the public utility question the enormous value of the benefit to the people from new inventions and improved mechanisms, from the control of the same. This tends to concentrate the major degree of benefits in the hands of the few. This naturally leads them to deceive the people and corrupt officials to maintain their position.

"Public employes with a right sense of public duty and editors with a proper regard for the ethics of their high profession will not permit themselves to be used by such selfish interests."

BRITISH UNIONISTS REJECT MOSCOW PLAN

New York, Oct. 20.—British trade unionists have no connection with Moscow, said Lord Melchett of London, speaking as the honor guest at a luncheon given by the National Civic Federation. He was introduced by Matthew Woll, acting president of the Civic Federation and a vice president of the American Federation of Labor.

Lord Melchett is a British capitalist. He was formerly Sir Alfred Mond and served as chairman in the successful conferences between employers and labor in this country. The plan was suggested by organized labor. As a result of these conferences, conducted in a spirit of fair play, a state-wide campaign of which his secret employer is the chief beneficiary; in its paying $200 a month to an editor for circulation of his editorial service favorable to the company; in the disclosures, by many representatives of the power trust, of its policy of attempting to influence newspapers by putting them under obligations.

"The trouble with the press and others who thus help to build up a utility Frankenstein is that they fail to separate in the public utility question the enormous value of the benefit to the people from new inventions and improved mechanisms, from the control of the same. This tends to concentrate the major degree of benefits in the hands of the few. This naturally leads them to deceive the people and corrupt officials to maintain their position.

"Public employes with a right sense of public duty and editors with a proper regard for the ethics of their high profession will not permit themselves to be used by such selfish interests."

HOME OWNING PASSING IN NATION'S CAPITAL

Washington, Oct. 20.—The nation's capital is rapidly changing from a growing city of home owners to a city of tenants, according to Rufus Lusk, secretary of the Operative Builders' Association of the District of Columbia.

The tendency toward large apartment houses and the development of a tenant population has been growing steadily for the last five years, said Lusk.

"Building operations so far this year show 65 per cent of the total housing is apartment house building instead of home building," he said. "When two-thirds of your housing development is toward tenancy instead of home ownership, it is not a good thing, especially for a city the size of Washington, where there is not an important need for this type of housing."

HIGHER CAR FARES GRANTED BY COURTS

Washington, Oct. 20.—The claim of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company of New York City for a fare increase from 5 cents to 7 cents is before the United States Supreme Court.

The company has a 99-year contract with the city, and New York state has a Public Service Commission to pass on these questions, but the company ignores the commission and appeals to the court.

The company is gleeful over two decisions by the Supreme Court in the cases of the cities of Los Angeles and Denver. Rates were raised and the people are helpless.

BISHOPS HEAR PLEA FOR SOCIAL POLICY

Washington, Oct. 20.—"A more specific statement of the fundamental Christian principles upon which industry and industrial relations could be based" was urged at the general convention of the Episcopal Church in this city.

The labor policy was outlined by Rev. Dr. Charles N. Lathrop, secretary of the Department of Christian Social Service of the National Council, in a preliminary report of a study on the "Church and Industrial Relations." It was proposed that tutorial classes be held yearly for clergy and laity and that parochial clergy contact employers' and employes' organizations.

Attention is called to the fact that because modern civilization is an industrial order of society the church must maintain interest in social problems, and that industrialism is one of the big problems confronting the Christian church.

COTTON WAGE DECLINES

Washington, Oct. 20.—Prosperity has not reached workers in the cotton goods industry, according to a survey by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Earnings this year are lower than in 1926. In 1928 the hourly earnings for all employes were 32.4 cents compared with 32.8 cents in 1926, and average full-time earnings per week in 1928 were $17.30, compared with $17.48 in 1926.

UNIONS RECOGNIZED

Yonkers, N. Y., Oct. 20.—The Building Trades Employers' Association of Westchester County recognized for the first time the unions of engineers, hoisters and steam shovel operators; rock excavators, teamsters and common laborers. Wage scales range from $14 a day for engineers, hoisters and steam shovel operators to 87½ cents an hour for common laborers.

LONG-HOUR SYSTEM RECALLED BY COURT

New York, Oct. 20.—The short work day of organized teamsters and the long hour system of unorganized teamsters is recalled by a Court of Appeals decision in which a compensation award by the State Industrial Board was upheld in the case of a teamster who was killed while sleeping because of exhaustion through long hours.

The decision has just been published by the State Department of Labor.

The teamster took a nap while crossing the Hudson River on a ferry boat. He failed to awake on arrival and a deck hand attempted to arouse him his team ran off the boat and he was killed. His widow and stepchild were awarded damages, but this was contested on the ground that when he fell asleep he lapsed from his duty.

The evidence showed that the teamster had no regular hours of employment. Sometimes he would arise at 3 and 4 o'clock in the morning and it was 10 and 12 o'clock at night before he completed his work.

The employer testified he didn't object to the teamster sleeping "as long as the man turned out his work."

The Court of Appeals, in sustaining the award, held that "the driver did not have to be actively employed to be in line of duty, that possibly he had not expected to fall asleep and that negligence in caring for his horses, even disobedience of orders, was "not equivalent to abandonment of his employment."

COMMUNIST TREACHERY SHOWN IN MINNESOTA

St. Paul, Oct. 20.—C. R. Hedlund, Communist, publicly denounces Senators Shipstead, Norris and La Follette and calls for a new party to test revolution and reaction join hands.

Hedlund's statement is given wide circulation in the stand-pat press of this state. He posed as a "progressive" and aided in the work that succeeded in securing the Farmer-Labor nomination for Congress in the Tenth district.

As was expected by observing men, Hedlund throws off his mask and stands as an agent of reaction.

FAVOR MINIMUM WAGE

St. Paul, Oct. 20.—A minimum wage ordinance to regulate wages paid by contractors on all city work has been introduced by Commissioner Wenzel. The author of the proposal insists that it is reasonable regulation and will protect living standards.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Fort Smith, Ark., Oct. 20.—The annual convention of the Arkansas Federation of Labor will be held here beginning Monday, December 3.

FEDERAL PENSION FUND CAN PAY HIGHER SCALE

Washington, Oct. 20.—The Federal retirement fund for civil service employes totaled $83,000,000 at the end of the fiscal year, according to the Department of the Interior.

This is considerably larger than the total at the end of the previous year. Annuities amounting to $11,000,000 were paid during the year to 15,383 persons while $26,000,000 was being collected by deductions from the salaries of active employes.

The present average annuity is $734 a year. The maximum amount that can be paid is $999.96 a year. There are 3,202 retired employes drawing that amount.

Figures showing the prosperity of the fund will be used in Congress this winter to aid in the enactment of the Dill bill, now pending. This bill would increase the maximum annuity to $1,200 a year and allow optional retirement after 30 years' service.

MINES ARE UNSAFE

Washington, Oct. 20.—The United States Bureau of Mines acknowledges that American coal mines are more dangerous than European and British coal mines.

This indictment of American disregard for life is contained in a statement on electric wiring in coal mines.

"From the standpoint of European mining practice in general and British practice in particular," the Bureau states, "American wiring methods might be considered extremely unsafe."

"RED" LABOR AGENTS CHEAT FUR WORKERS

Philadelphia, Oct. 20.—Emotional folk who accept Communist pretense are shocked at the daring of these "reds" who have signed a secret agreement with fur manufacturers and who pledged they will incorporate Fur Workers' Union No. 53 under the laws of the State.

The new agreement provides that Local No. 53 must not affiliate with any outside organization. This cuts the fur workers off from all trade union affiliation.

Under the previous agreement there was equal division of work during slack periods and no worker could be discharged. Under the new agreement the equal division clause applies to but 10 months in the year and manufacturers have two months in which to change their shops and discharge at will.

The old agreement expired at the height of the season, but the Communists have arranged matters so that the new agreement will expire June 1, in the dullest period of the year.

The wrecking policy of the Communists is the boldest piece of brigandage in the history of the local labor movement.

PARTISAN VOTING "YELLOW DOG" PLAN

Duluth, Minn., Oct. 20.—"Partisanship does nothing but coerce the voter," said Senator Norris, Republican, of Nebraska, in urging Duluth citizens to vote for Senator Shipstead, Farmer-Labor candidate.

"Partisanship leads our minds astray," said Senator Norris. "It causes us to vote a straight ticket, yellow dog and all. There never would have been a democracy anywhere in the world if it had not been for those who had the courage to be independent."

INJUNCTION HEARINGS BEGIN NEXT DECEMBER

Washington, Oct. 20.—The House Committee on the Judiciary has completed hearings on the La Guardia anti-injunction bill beginning with the December session of Congress. The bill is similar to the one introduced in the Senate by Mr. Shipstead, and provides:

"Equity courts shall have jurisdiction to protect property when there is no remedy at law; for the purpose of determining such jurisdiction, nothing shall be held to be property unless it is tangible and transferable, and all laws and parts of laws inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed."

A sub-committee of the Senate Judiciary Committee (Senators Norris, Walsh of Montana and Blaine) have held many hearings on this bill. The sub-committee has submitted a substitute which they prepared for purposes of discussion. They are not committed to this proposal, and present it in the hope that wide differences between organized labor and attorneys for manufacturers' organizations may be composed.

UNION FOE STEALS!

GETS A GREAT "PATRIOT"

Charleston, W. Va., Oct. 20.—John C. Bond, former State auditor, has exhausted every legal possibility and must serve a six-years' imprisonment in the Moundsville penitentiary for misuse of State funds.

Bond was one of this State's "patriots" and defenders of the flag several years ago when the miners were attempting to maintain a living wage.

RETAIL CLERKS GAIN

Casper, Wyo., Oct. 20.—Local merchants are signing the new wage agreement of Retail Clerks' Union No. 162.

Coal Owners Have Private Armies; Hold Czar Rule In Company Towns

Chattanooga, Tenn., Oct. 20.—"In districts where the mine strike continues, mine workers are waging the greatest struggle in the history of the organization," said Ben Williams, organizer of the United Mine Workers, in an interview with the Labor World, published in this city.

"Probably the most powerful combinations of capital in history are using every method to destroy the union," said Mr. Williams. "The strongest coal corporations, with their powerful financial influences, have, directly and indirectly, enforced the aid of politicians and business men. These corporations own and control incorporated towns and maintain private standing armies that are clothed with police power and are decked with a full regalia of uniforms and sidearms.

"It is estimated that several hundred thousand strikebreakers have been imported into the camps of these corporations. Labor standards have been lowered, crime is rampant and conditions are almost indescribable.

"Investigations made by newspapers and others have disclosed the brutal practice of gun thugs clothed with police authority and responsible to no one save the corporations that employ them.

"Investigation by the United States Senate Committee, which personally visited the stricken fields, interviewing citizens not connected with the labor movement, proved every charge made by the victims of the coal companies' policy.

"The Senate investigators also developed admissions from many coal company heads that the mining industry is the poorest managed in the country and that legislation is needed to cure its ills. The coal owners are either unwilling or incompetent to correct these ills."

RAILROADS USING FEWER EMPLOYES; OUTPUT JUMPS; MILLIONS OF PROFIT

Washington, Oct. 20.—In five years the railroads of this country have released 183,364 employes and handled 16,000,000,000 tonmiles more freight. These startling figures have just been made public by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Each railroad employe today is doing at least 15 per cent more work than he did five years ago.

The commission's figures refute the "high" wage claim that is so insistently urged. With 15 per cent more production the average wage is 66.8 cents an hour, as compared with 61.5 cents an hour in the first six months of 1923.

LEADING TORY QUITS CABINET; FORCED BIG BRITISH WALKOUT

London, England, Oct. 20.—Lord Birkenhead has resigned from the cabinet as Secretary of State for India. This action embarrasses the Conservative Government, which is preparing to contest the next general election with the Labor party and the revived Liberal party.

Lord Birkenhead was one of the three "die hards" in the cabinet who played a leading part in the general strike, two years ago. Just prior to this event, representatives of the British Trades Union Congress were conferring with the government on a settlement of the miners' strike.

During these negotiations the London Daily Mail printed a savage editorial attack on the unionists and the printers walked out. Their representatives and officials of the Congress repudiated this unauthorized act, but it was seized upon by Winston Churchill, minister of exechequer; Neville Chamberlain, minister of health, and Lord Birkenhead of the Royal Premier Baldwin and other members of the cabinet to their smash-the-union policy.

The three "die-hards" induced the premier to break off peace negotiations and the general strike order followed. For several days the nation rang with attacks on "free press," through the radio that Churchill seized for the government's use. Later the government changed front and agreed to resume peace negotiations on a basis prepared by Sir Herbert Samuel, Chairman of the Royal Coal Commission. This was also accepted by representatives of the British Trades Union Congress, but was rejected by the miners. The former won their objective and called off the strike. Later the miners returned to work under worse conditions than they rejected.

The general strike was the first of its kind in history, as it was an effort by workers to compel a government to resume peace negotiations.

BRITISH OUST "REDS" AS IS DONE IN AMERICA

Yonkers, N. Y., Oct. 20.—"British trade unionists agree with American organized workers that Communists have no place in their movement," said William Collins, A. F. of L. organizer, in an address to the Westchester Building Trades Council on his recent visit abroad.

"British opposition to Communists was shown at the convention of the British Trades Union Congress, which I attended," said Mr. Collins. "The 'reds' were ousted by an overwhelming vote. Unionists declared they will have no connection with them, either national or local."

Mr. Collins said unemployment is general in Great Britain and the government is attempting to alleviate this distress with an unemployment insurance fund that is maintained by contributions from employers, from workers and the state.

The fund is distributed by the government. Every wage worker is registered. When the worker secures employment he or she deposits a stamp book with the employer, who cancels every week employed. The employer deducts the worker's weekly share of the contribution, which is 7 pence (14 cents) for male workers.

Mr. Collins said the unemployment problem in both sections of Ireland is similar to England.

REGULATION OF JOB AGENCIES IS URGED

New York, Oct. 20.—Private employment agencies that exploit jobseekers must be regulated, it is declared by the State Department of Labor.

The State Department of Labor obtained 36,220 less jobs for applicants the last fiscal year than the year before, but the private agencies are increasing 80 per cent. State officials explain that while the State endeavors to obtain permanent jobs for the unemployed, the private fee-charging agencies are interested in making jobs as temporary as possible.

The State officials recommend that the licensing of these private agencies be placed under the State Department of Labor.

FOES OF POPULAR RULE DEFEATED IN OREGON

Salem, Ore., Oct. 20.—The State Supreme Court refused to pass upon the constitutionality of the Dunne motor license bill until the people accept or reject the measure.

The Oregon tax commission asked the court to outlaw the bill and order that it be not placed on the ballot at the coming election.

The State Federation of Labor took an active interest in the contest because of the principle involved. If the court passed on the bill it would enable opponents of the initiative to attack the courts whenever a proposal was before the referendum. The unionists saw in the court attack on the Dunne bill a first move against popular government.

NO "DOLE" IN ENGLAND

Halifax, Oct. 20.—"There is no 'dole' for unemployed in Great Britain," declared Tom Johnston, labor member of the British House of Commons, who visited this city.

The British have denounced the term 'dole' as a gross misrepresentation of the unemployment scheme in Great Britain.

"There is no 'dole'," he insisted. "There is an insurance to which every workman is compelled by law to contribute weekly. When, through unemployment he is not responsible for, he receives benefits he is no more receiving charity than the business man who collects insurance after a fire destroys his buildings."

WATCH LABOR UNIONS IS UTILITIES' POLICY

New York, Oct. 20.—The Federal Trade Commission's probe of the power trust has revealed that money taken from the people has been used to "discourage radicalism by labor organizations and all sorts of agitators." "Radical propaganda" is included. The power trust, of course, stamps as "radical" everything that is in opposition to its policy.

Power utilities paid $84,000 annually to a firm in Salem, Ore., that sponsors a monthly magazine, a daily newspaper, and a weekly industrial news service sent regularly for four years to 14,000 newspapers in every section of the country.

The magazine owners assured the commission that they oppose government in business on principle and have not been influenced by the annual contribution of $84,000.

One letter, written to A. R. Gwinn of the Central Illinois Public Service Company, testified Ill., that the service was primarily for small city dailies and country weeklies.

"In the aggregate," the letter states, "these papers reach the majority of American citizens who hold the balance of power in our state and national elections."

The letter declared the object is to reduce the volume of legislation which "interferes with business and industry" and to "discourage radicalism by labor organizations and all sorts of agitators."

PEOPLE'S MONEY USED IN OREGON ELECTION

Washington, Oct. 20.—Public utilities in Oregon spent $29,000 in 1926 to defeat a proposed amendment to that State's Constitution which would have authorized the State to generate and distribute electric power.

Evidence submitted to the Federal Trade Commission showed there was an organized speaking campaign against the proposal and that literature was printed and distributed against it. The amendment was defeated by a vote of 4 to 1.

The evidence included a letter sent to all utilities executives in Oregon which revealed the stealthy manner in which signatures for the initiative petitions were opposed. This letter stated:

"While we do not feel that we should make any strenuous efforts in the open to prevent the getting of these signatures, we do feel that we should not overlook the opportunity to discourage it when it can be done without too much publicity. No doubt there are places in your territory where some good quiet work will be materially helpful and we ask that you do this whenever and wherever possible."

NORTHWEST WORKLESS BRING GRAVE PROBLEM

Portland, Ore., Oct. 20.—A report by the unemployment commission shows that unemployment is a grave problem in this state, and it is expected to become more serious as seasonal employments are ended.

In but two or three districts does there appear to be any seasonal employment that can care for job-seeking workers. With the completion of fruit picking and hop picking these workers will flood the cities. What to do with them this winter will be the problem.

FOREIGN LOANS GROW

Washington, Oct. 20.—American capital is drifting to foreign countries in increasing amounts, according to the Department of Commerce. During the first nine months of this year foreign securities sold in this country amounted to $1,398,269,150, as compared with $1,050,888,760 for the same period last year.